Approved For Release 2004/10/07 : CIA-RDP78M02660R000200070

RABINOWITZ, BOUDIN & STANDARD

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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CABLE: RABOUDIN

Executive Registry

June 28, 1976

Mr. Gene F. Wilson Information and Privacy Coordinator Central Intelligence Agency Washington, D.C. 20505

Re: National Lawyers Guild

Dear Mr. Wilson:

We are in receipt of your letter dated June 23, 1976, replying to our letter of June 16, 1976. Certain matters require comment.

l. Reference was made in our letter of June 16th to the possibility of the Central Intelligence Agency destroying relevant records. We specifically asked for assurances that this would not take place. We further requested that, if no such assurances could be given, we be informed of the nature of the documents to be destroyed and of other specified matters by which we could judge our future course. Additionally, Congresswoman Bella Abzug wrote to the Agency joining in our request that no destruction of relevant records take place. A copy of her letter is enclosed for your convenience.

Your letter of June 23, 1976 failed to acknowledge these aspects of our letter. We view the Agency's silence with grave and increased apprehension. We again request that you respond immediately and fully with regard to these matters.

2. It is unclear whether the comments in paragraphs 2 and 3 of your June 23rd letter refer to our requests No. 1(b) and (c) or our request No. 3. Please advise as to which of these requests you consider improper. We also note that no portion of our requests is withdrawn.

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Mr. Gene F. Wilson

- 3. Reference is made in your letter of June 23rd to a prohibition against releasing "personally identifiable information to third parties without the express consent of the individuals whose records are concerned." We by no means concede that there is such a prohibition in the present context. Nor do we fully understand what is "personally identifiable information." For instance, would a document describing the activities of a member of the Guild, taken as a member of the Guild, fall within the prohibition? In any event, your suggestion that we obtain "notarized releases from the persons involved" necessitates our being informed as to who those persons are. Accordingly, we request that in taking such action as the Agency believes is required by the aforesaid asserted prohibition, the Agency also inform us of the names of the persons involved.
- 4. It appears that you have misunderstood somewhat our requests Nos. 1 and 2. We have made a request that a search be conducted immediately for the records described under those numbered paragraphs and that we be informed upon the conclusion of the search of the existence and nature of the records discovered. Our request for an estimate of costs refers only to the cost of reproducing the documents once discovered. This is in contrast to request No. 3, in which we do not request a search but simply request an estimate of the charges to be incurred in a search for the records there described.
- 5. Your June 23rd letter is silent as to our request No. 2. Please inform us as to whether we are to infer that there are no present objections to said request.

Your prompt response to all of the above matters is requested.

Yours truly, RABINOWITZ, BOUDIN & STAND!

MK/kmw

cc: William Goodman
President, National Lawyers Guild

Mr. George Bush Director, Central Intelligence Agency

CIA Information Review Committee

Representative Bella Abzug Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, Committee on Government Operations

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY Washington, D.C. 20505

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Michael Krinsky, Esquire Rabinowitz, Boudin & Standard

Dear Mr. Krinsky:

This is in reply to your letter of 16 June 1976.

As you request, I shall obtain from the recordholding components estimates of the likely fees for searching for records pertaining to the National Lawyers Guild. I will not be able to comply, however, with your requests for estimates of the fees involved in searching for records concerning individuals and organizations affiliated, or possibly affiliated, with the Guild for reasons given later in this letter. With respect to records on the programs and activities of the Guild, presumably this information would be surfaced in any search for records on the National Lawyers Guild itself.

The Freedom of Information Act requires that the requester reasonably describe the records sought. It most certainly does not require that a Federal agency perform research—which is precisely what would be involved in compiling a list of individuals or organizations affiliated, or possibly affiliated, with the Guild—on behalf of requesters. Moreover, as you must know, the Privacy Act of 1974, together with exemption (b)(6) of the Freedom of Information Act, prohibits the release of most personally identifiable information to third parties without the express consent of the individuals whose records are concerned.

In view of the above considerations, it would seem more reasonable if you limited your request at this time to any records we hold on the organization. You may later wish to levy further requests, depending upon the nature of the records uncovered by our searches and released to you. If, however, the follow-on requests include requests for personal files, we would insist upon notarized releases from the persons involved



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in the requests. plus sufficient biographical data on them to permit the identification of references to them.

I assume that you are already acquainted with our fee schedule, but I would be pleased to provide a copy at your request.

Gene F. Wilson

Information and Privacy Coordinator

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